

Kevin D. Collins

Partner

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AUSTIN

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Kevin Collins is a first-chair trial lawyer with 20 years of combined private and government experience. He handles complex cases across multiple industries throughout the United States. Kevin leads criminal and civil trial teams in federal, state, and administrative investigations and trials. He is a former federal prosecutor, who served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) in the Eastern District of Texas.

He is co-leader of the Firm's Incident Prevention and Response practice group and has deployed to multiple catastrophic incidents in the energy and manufacturing sectors. He has strong working relationships with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other state and local authorities that investigate incidents.

Kevin routinely partners with our labor & employment, healthcare, and pipeline safety lawyers to investigate compliance concerns, employment-related issues, safety concerns, whistleblower complaints, and allegations of criminal violations. He has handled cases involving the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE), the Department of Interior, U.S. Postal Service CID, U.S. EPA CID, and other investigative authorities.

Currently, among other engagements, Kevin serves on the trial team in *United States v. Denka Performance Elastometer LLC*, No. 2:23-cv-00735 (E.D. La.), a Clean Air Act Section 303 action against the nation's only Neoprene manufacturer.

Industries

[Energy](#)

[Healthcare](#)

Practices

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[Environment, Lands and](#)

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[Litigation](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

[Environmental Litigation &](#)

[Enforcement Defense](#)

[Healthcare & Life Sciences](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Pipeline and LNG Safety and](#)

[Regulation](#)

[Renewable Energy](#)

[False Claims Act](#)

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Kevin serves as an adjunct professor at The University of Texas School of Law, where he teaches courses in trial advocacy, and at St. Edward's University, where he teaches courses in criminal law.

Experience

Business owner

- defended against federal conspiracy and criminal tax charges; tried case to verdict in federal jury trial

Executive

- negotiated plea agreement for international executive charged by the U.S. Justice Department with FCPA violations

Independent panel

- conducted special investigation into corporate safety culture, corporate safety oversight and safety management systems at BP's five North American refineries on behalf of an independent panel of experts chaired by former US Secretary of State James A. Baker III*

Major integrated energy company

- special safety investigation under Contra Costa county's industrial safety ordinance*

Major refining and marketing company

- investigations by CalOSHA, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), the U.S. EPA, and Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials*

Chemical manufacturer

- represented during OSHA and CSB investigation of release resulting in a fatality*
- represented during OSHA, CSB, U.S. EPA, and TCEQ investigations of a release resulting in four fatalities*

Midstream oil and gas company

- internal investigation of a process safety incident*

Criminal investigation

- represented nurse witnesses in federal criminal investigation, United States v. Lopez, No. 7:22-cr-00216 (S.D. Tex.)

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Criminal trial witness

- represented attorney witness in federal criminal trial involving the Anti-Kickback Statute, *United States v. Hertzberg*, No. 6:22-cr-3 (E.D. Tex.)

Healthcare fraud investigation

- represented dentists accused of defrauding health benefit programs in Texas

Healthcare fraud prosecution

- prosecuted CEO for conspiracy to defraud healthcare benefit programs associated with Community Specialty Hospital, *United States v. Powers*, No. 4:09-cr-00239 (E.D. Tex.)*

* *Work completed prior to Bracewell*

Credentials

Education

- The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 2005, *with honors*
- The University of Texas at Austin, B.A., 1993

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Section of Environment Energy and Resources; Section of Environmental Enforcement and Crimes; Section of Environmental Litigation; Section of Toxic Torts Committees
- Eastern District of Texas Anti-Terrorism Advisory Task Force
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow

Recognition

Chambers USA

- Texas Environment, 2021 – 2024

The Legal 500 United States

- Environment: Regulatory, 2016, 2019 – 2024
- Environment: Litigation, 2016, 2018 – 2019, 2022 – 2024
- Dispute Resolution: Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2023 – 2024

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BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Environmental Law, 2019 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Environmental, 2020 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2025
- Austin Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Environmental, 2023

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon Green 500: Leaders in Environmental Law, Government Investigations, Enforcement & Litigation*, 2024
- *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers, Energy Investigations and Litigation*, 2024 – 2025

Resources

EPA’s Risk Management Plan With Craig Haas

Podcast

FOIA’s Deliberative-Process Privilege and the ESA

Blog Post

Environmental Enforcement, Suspension and Debarment With Robert Wagman, Jason Hutt and Kevin Collins

Podcast

Monitor/Sidebar Crossover Part 1: I Am The One Who Knocks

Podcast

Monitor/Sidebar Crossover Part 2: I Am the One Who Knocks

Podcast

Surviving and Thriving in a Hostile Cyber Environment

Video

Criminal Investigations and Prosecutorial Discretion in HSE

Video

U.S. Chemical Safety Board Issues Factual Update on TPC Group Port Neches Facility

Blog Post

10th Circuit expands PSM coverage

Blog Post

City of Houston Tightens Local Hazardous Materials Regulations

Update

Government Enforcement and Investigations Year-In-Review: The Administration Has Moved Its Pieces into Place

Update

CSB Releases Guidance on Accidental Release Reporting

Update

CSB's New Transparency Initiative

Blog Post

Publications & Speeches

- Co-author, "Avoiding criminal liability after a flood: Lessons from Hurricane Harvey," *Trends*, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources of the American Bar Association, January/February 2018.
- Presenter, "Personal Criminal Liability for Corporate Activities," Association of Corporate Counsel Austin Chapter, March 28, 2017.
- "Lessons Learned from the PG&E Trial," *Austin Bar Association Environmental Law Section*, December 1, 2016.
- "The Criminalization of Process Safety," *Chicagoland Safety, Health, & Environment Conference, Chicago*, September 21, 2016.
- "Criminalization of Process Safety Incidents," *29th Annual Environmental, Health & Safety Seminar Sponsored by Texas Chemistry Council (TCC) and Association of Chemical Industry of Texas (ACITS)*, Galveston, Texas, June 6, 2016.
- "The Criminalization of Process Safety," *Inside Counsel*, March 15, 2016.
- "Major Accident Response," *26th Annual Texas/Louisiana EHS Seminar Sponsored by Texas Chemistry Council (TCC) and Association of Chemical Industry of Texas (ACITS)*, Galveston, Texas, June 3-6, 2013.
- "How is Environmental & Safety Regulation of the Oil & Gas Industry Evolving?," *65th Annual Oil & Gas Law Conference*, Houston, Texas, February 19-20, 2014.
- "What to Expect in the Event of an Oil Spill or Other Significant Offshore Incident or Catastrophe," *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Federal*

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Offshore Regulatory Enforcement Conference, Houston, Texas, January 20-21, 2016.

- “Incident Response: E-Discovery in Government Investigations,” *AU-CLE Webinar*, July 30, 2014.